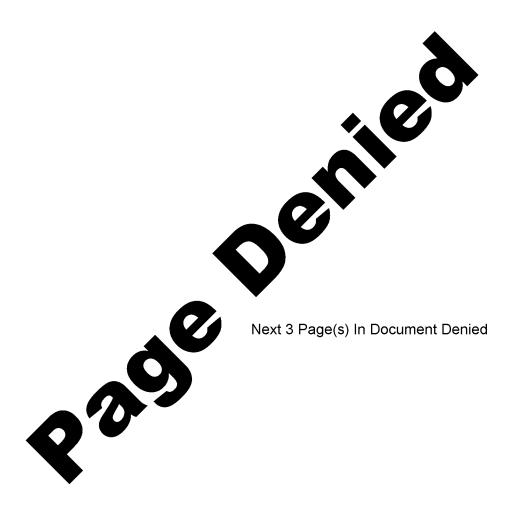
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GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION WASHINGTON, D. C. 20405

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GSA BULLETIN FPMR H- 49 UTILIZATION AND DISPOSAL

TO: Heads of Federal agencies

SUBJECT: Reporting requirements for foreign gifts and decorations

- 1. Purpose. This bulletin announces a change in the minimal value requirement for reporting gifts received from foreign governments by United States employees and requests agencies to advise employees of the change.
- 2. Expiration date. This bulletin expires December 31, 1989.
- 3. Background. FPMR 101-49 governs the receipt and retention of gifts from foreign governments by employees of the United States reporting of the gifts.
- 4. General. Effective January 1, 1987, the minimal value is increased to \$180. The Foreign Gifts and Decorations Act of 1966 (5 U.S.C. 7342) requires that the minimal value be redefined every 3 years to reflect changes in the consumer price index.
- 5. Agency action. Employing agencies are required by Public Law 95-105 and the implementing regulations in FPMR 101-49 to report to GSA for disposition foreign gifts valued at over \$180 that are not returned to the donor or retained for official use. Agencies foreign gift acceptance and retention restrictions, the reporting regulations.
- 6. <u>GSA assistance</u>. Additional information may be obtained by writing to the General Services Administration, Federal Supply Service, Property Management Division (FBP), Washington, DC 20406, or by calling FTS 557-1240 or commercial 703-557-1240.
- 7. Cancellation. GSA Bulletin FPMR H-41, dated August 3, 1984, is canceled.

By delegation of the Commissioner.

WILLIAM B. FOOTE

Assistant Commissioner for Policy and Agency Liaison

SSA DC-8911701233



U.S. Department of State

DEPARTMENT NOTICE

April 27, 1984

TO ALL EMPLOYEES STATE

ACCEPTANCE OF FOREIGN GIFTS: REDEFINITION OF "MINIMAL VALUE"

Employees' attention is invited to an amendment of the regulations implementing P.L. 95-105, the Foreign Gifts and Decorations Act of 1966, which redefines "minimal value". The amendment, effective March 28, 1984, raises minimal value from \$140 to \$165.

Earlier regulations promulgated on August 17, 1977, provided that "on January 1, 1981, and at 3-year intervals thereafter, "minimal value" shall be redefined in regulations prescribed by the Administrator of General Services, in consultation with the Secretary of State, to reflect changes in the consumer price index for the immediately preceding 3-year period A redefinition which occurred on October 20, 1981, and is now outdated, provided for raising minimal value from \$100 to \$140.

A United States Government employee (including the employee's spouse and dependents) is prohibited from requesting or otherwise encouraging the tender of a gift or decoration from a foreign government. Furthermore, a United States Government employee may not accept and retain a gift tendered by a foreign government if it has a retail value in the United States of more than \$165. Unsolicited gifts of minimal value tendered as a souvenir or mark of courtesy may be accepted and retained. Employees are reminded, nevertheless, that they must be aware of the standards of conduct regulations contained in 22 CFR, Part 10, with respect to possible conflicts of interest arising from the receipt of the Department and the Foreign Service have, in some cases, more stringent limitations on the receipt of gifts and decorations by employees.

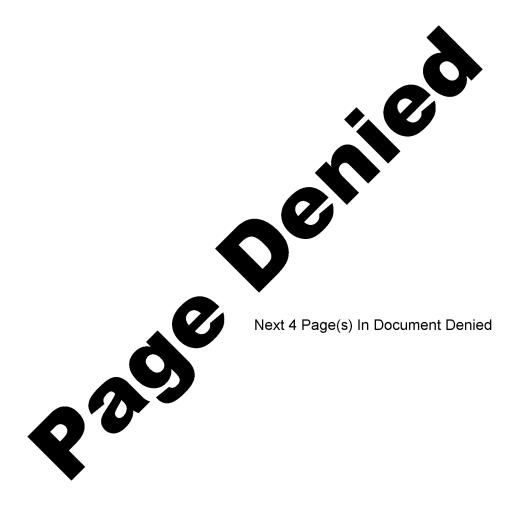
Employees are reminded that gifts of more than minimal value may be accepted only when it appears that to refuse the gift would likely cause offense or embarrassment or otherwise adversely affect the foreign relations of the United States. Such gifts become the property of the United States and must be reported to the Office of Protocol within 60 days of acceptance. Noncompliance can result in a civil action. Forms for the reporting and surrender of gifts are available from the Office of Protocol, extension 0907.

As in the past, approval for the retention of foreign gifts for official use at a designated location in the employing agency or at a specified Foreign Service post, i.e., those of more than minimal value, must be requested through the Office of Protocol. Further, approval of acceptance and retention of foreign decorations must be requested through the supervising Assistant Secretary of State or comparable official, except that, in the case of a decoration awarded to an assistant

(Continued on reverse)

secretary or other officer of comparable or higher rank, the decision shall be made by the Office of Protocol; for IDCA, by the Assistant Director for Administration; for AID, by the Director of Personnel Management; and for USIA, by the supervising associate director, the General Counsel, or the Director of the Office of Congressional and Public Liaison (for domestic employees), and by the Director of Area Offices (for overseas employees).

All other provisions of P.L. 95-105, as given in the Department Notice dated January 4, 1978, remain in effect.



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